

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 OMB-01 NSCE-00 SAJ-01 AID-20

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 AGR-20 DLOS-06 ACDA-19 NIC-01 DRC-01

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R 020537Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6143

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USLO PEKING

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CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, AU, MY

SUBJECT: WHITLAM VISIT TO MALAYSIA

1. SUMMARY: AUSTRALIAN PM WHITLAM'S VISIT TO MALAYSIA
REPORTEDLY QUITE SUCCESSFUL AND GOM-GOA RELATIONS

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UNDOUBTEDLY ENHANCED BY EXTENDED OPPORTUNITY OFFERED FOR PRIVATE TALKS BETWEEN WHITLAM AND GOM PM RAZAK. FROM EXTENT LOCAL PRESS ATTENTION, HIGHLIGHT OF VISIT FOR MALAYSIANS WERE MORE OPEN-ENDED STATEMENTS BY AUSTRALIAN PM THAT GOA WOULD CONTINUE HONOR DEFENSE COMMITMENTS TO MALAYSIA AND WOULD NOT REMOVE RAAF SQUADRONS STATIONED IN MALAYSIA SO LONG AS THESE RELEVANT. END SUMMARY.

2. AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER GOUGH WHITLAM, WIFE, DAUGHTER AND PARTY OF ABOUT TWENTY VISITED MALAYSIA FOR FOUR DAYS BEGINNING JAN 28 AND ENDING JAN 31, 1974. WHITLAM MET AT AIRPORT BY MALAYSIAN PM RAZAK, DEP PM HUSSEIN ONN, WIVES, OTHER MINISTERS AND HIGH OFFICIALS. WHITLAM STAYED IN STATE GUEST HOUSE (UNLIKE JAPANESE PM TANKA, WHICH WAS AS SORE POINT WITH MALAYSIANS), ATTENDED LARGE AUSTRALIA DAY RECEPTION AT AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER'S MONDAY EVENING. WHITLAM HAD AUDIENCE WITH KING AND QUEEN JAN 29; AND PM'S MET FOR PRIVATE TALKS WITH ADVISERS BOTH ON 29 AND 30. STATE BANQUET HOSTED BY RAZAK TUESDAY NIGHT AND RETURN DINNER GIVEN BY WHITLAM WEDNESDAY. WHITLAM JOINTLY AND INDIVIDUALLY TOURED AREA AROUND KL, MET WITH IMPORTANT MINISTERS AND WIVES, AND DEPARTED FOR BANGKOK MORNING OF JAN 31 VIA BUTTERWORTH AIR BASE WHERE WHITLAM INSPECTED RAAF SQUADRONS.

3. MALAYSIAN PRESS GAVE MAJOR ATTENTION TO STATEMENTS BY PM WHITLAM ON FPDA AND MORE LONG-TERM APPROACH TO LARGER ASIAN-PACIFIC CONSULTATIVE BODY. WITH REGARD TO FPDA, WHITLAM PUBLICALLY STATED THAT GOA WOULD CONTINUE HONOR DEFENSE COMMITMENTS TO MALAYSIA UNTIL MORE POSITIVE AND ENDURING ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE. HE ALSO SAID THAT RAAF SQUADRONS AT BUTTERWORTH WOULD REMAIN QUOTE AS LONG AS THEY RELEVANT TO NEEDS OF BOTH COUNTRIES AND TO REALITIES IN REGION UNQUOTE. IN REPEATING HIS BELIEF IN VALUE OF CREATING LARGER EAST ASIAN-PACIFIC CONSULTATIVE FORUM, WHITLAM ADMITTED THAT, LIKE GOM'S HOPED-FOR ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY, FORUM COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED QUICKLY AND MUST EVOLVE FROM WITHIN REGION. WHITLAM REPORTEDLY ALSO DISCUSSED GENERAL SECURITY SITUATION IN MALAYSIA AND REGION, RELATIONS WITH PRC, AND GOM-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INDONESIAN STRAIT OF MALACCA CLAIMS WITH RAZAK, UNNAMED OFFICIAL GOA SOURCE TOLD PRESS WITH REGARD LATTER THAT, WHILE SYMPATHETIC TO MALAYSIAN AND INDONESIAN CONCERNS RE POLLUTION (SIC) IN STRAIT, GOA DOES NOT WANT TAKE PUBLIC STAND BEFORE CARACAS LOS CONFERENCE.

4. ON ECONOMIC SIDE, WHITLAM CALLED FOR EXPANSION OF AUSTRALIAN PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN MALAYSIA, BUT WAS

CAREFUL TO SAY GOA FULLY RESPECTED MALAYSIAN CONTROLS ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT. HE ALSO PUBLICALLY OFFERED TO SUPPLY 5,000 TONS HIGH GRADE AUSTRALIAN RICE AND SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH MALAYSIAN REQUIREMENTS FOR WHEAT, SUGAR AND STEEL WITH TUN RAZAK.

5. IN SPEECHES ATTENDANT ON VISIT, TUN RAZAK MADE CLEAR VALUE PLACED BY GOM ON COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AREA. WITH REGARD TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE TUN GENTLY WARNED WHITLAM THAT CONSOLIDATION OF ASEAN ESSENTIAL FIRST STEP IF SEA NATIONS ARE TO DEVELOP CONFIDENCE AND CAPACITY TO PLAY MEANINGFUL ROLE IN ASIA AS A WHOLE. POINTING OUT THAT EAST ASIA IN THROES OF MAJOR UPHEAVAL DURING WHICH MORE AND MORE NATIONS BEGINNING TO RECOGNIZE THAT CONFRONTATION IS ESSENTIALLY STERILE AND THAT NEW APPROACH MUST BE DEVELOPED TO ASSURE COMMON FUTURE, RAZAK NOTED THAT HABITS OF CONFRONTATION STILL STRONG. IT IMPORTANT, THEREFORE, FOR COUNTRIES OF AREA TO PROCEED SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY AND BUILDING FROM WHAT THEY SHARE IN COMMON.

6. COMMENT: VISIT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A SUCCESS AND MODESTLY PRODUCTIVE ON BOTH SIDES. PRESS COVERAGE WAS GOOD AND STRESSED CORDIALITY THAT PREVAILED DURING FOUR DAYS. AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TOLD CHARGE THAT WHITLAM AND RAZAK GOT ALONG EXTRA-ORDINARILY WELL AND THAT PRIVATE TALKS LASTED FAR LONGER THAN ANYONE HAD EXPECTED.

7. GOM CERTAINLY IS PLEASED TO HAVE ITS FEARS PUT TO REST ABOUT POSSIBLE PULL OUT OF RAAF AND STRONG COMMITMENT BY WHITLAM TO CONTINUED SECURITY COOPERATION, EVEN IF LATTER IN FACT DIMINISHED. RAZAK AND MFA ALSO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MUST HAVE WELCOMED CHANCE TO EXPRESS THEIR DOUBTS TO WHITLAM ABOUT ASPAC-LIKE EAST ASIAN-PACIFIC FORUM WHICH, IN MALAYSIAN VIEW, FROUGHT WITH POSSIBILITIES FOR DISCORD BECAUSE OF POTENTIAL PRESSURES TO ADMIT BOTH PEKING AND MOSCOW. EMBASSY WILL PREPARE MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS OF GOM-GOA DISCUSSIONS ON THESE AND OTHER TOPICS AS FIRST-HAND ACCOUNTS OF MEETINGS BECOME AVAILABLE.
CHESLAW

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN INVESTMENT, FOREIGN RELATIONS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, MILITARY BASES, ISLAND CLAIMS, COLLECTIVE SECURITY AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KUALA00402
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740167/aaaackvk.tel
Line Count: 163
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <04 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WHITLAM VISIT TO MALAYSIA
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, OVIP, AU, MY, (WHITLAM, E GOUGH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005